

# Chinese government policies criticized

By Steven Mufson=(c) 1997, The Washington Post

BEIJING- Among the most prominent political prisoners in China are Wang Dan, a student leader during the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations who is serving his second jail sentence, and Liu Xiaobo, a literary critic and Beijing intellectual who was arrested in 1995 after he sent an open letter to President Jiang Zemin.

Despite China's revised criminal code, which eliminated counterrevolutionary crimes and limited the time people can be detained without trial, Liu fell through one of the loopholes in the law. Under a clause granting wide power to police, security forces were able to send Liu to a "reform through education" camp for a three-year term without bringing him to trial.

Dissident Wang Xizhe, the coauthor of Liu's letter, wrote this week in a letter to President Clinton, "Today they ask the West to recognize the heterogeneous nature of the international community and not to

impose the political and systemic principles of the West on China."

"What the Chinese Communist Party is asking the West to respect is not the Chinese people and their right to choose their own destiny," said Wang, who later fled to the United States, "but the prerogative for the Chinese Communist Party to continue its brutal one-party dictatorship."

The Chinese government's position on religion also will be subject to scrutiny during Jiang's visit to the United States.

China's State Council Information Office correctly points out that compared with the Cultural Revolution period between 1966 and 1976, China is in the midst of a religious "golden age." It estimates that 100 million people practice religious faiths- including Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism- at more than 85,000 religious sites.

In a recent report, the government information office noted that approximately 600 Protestant churches have been reopened or rebuilt every year. By the end of 1996,

more than 18 million copies of the Bible had been printed. Over the past dozen years, it said, more than 900 Catholic priests have been trained.

But in religion, as in politics, the ruling Communist Party asks loyalty and obedience in return for a degree of freedom. It requires religious groups to register with the State Council's Religious Affairs Bureau and recognize the Communist Party as the supreme authority. That is a problem for many religious observers, especially Tibetan Buddhists loyal to the Dalai Lama and Chinese Catholics loyal to the pope.

In recent months, the government has waged a campaign to disrupt the underground, or unofficial, Catholic Church in what Catholic leaders see as an effort to force them into accommodation with the government-sponsored church.

Several unofficial seminaries have been broken up, according to church sources. In August, security forces arrested a priest who was running a small seminary in Ruili near the border of Burma and China's Yunnan Province. Four students fled. In

September, there was a raid on a Fujian seminary. More recently the government arrested Wang Shangguo, a priest who headed a seminary. Catholic sources here say that police detained 22 seminary students in an unofficial seminary near Baoding in late September.

Their teacher, Baoding Bishop Su Zhimin, was arrested Oct. 8. Su - one of the half-dozen most senior people in the unofficial Roman Catholic Church- had been in hiding in Beijing for 17 months after short periods in detention. But he had moved to link up with other senior leaders in the unofficial church who narrowly escaped capture themselves.

"No country in the world can tolerate criminal activities under the guise of religion, and China will not," Ye Xiaowen, of the Religious Affairs Bureau, was quoted Oct. 13 as saying by the official New China News Agency.

This week the official Vatican news agency struck back, calling the Chinese government policy document on freedom of religion a "publicity pamphlet" timed to smooth criticism of China ahead of Jiang's U.S. visit.

# Muslim's war crimes case becomes a test of Bosnia justice

By Tracy Wilkinson=(c) 1997, Los Angeles Times

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Ibrahim Djedovic reported for work as a newly elected legislator last spring and quickly found himself whisked away by police.

Frantic efforts by international diplomats to save him failed, and Djedovic was summarily stripped of his parliamentary immunity and imprisoned on war crimes charges.

Today his case has become a symbol of unhealed wounds from Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II and a stark illustration of this damaged society's inability to mete out justice.

"This is a critical test for this country's court system, and so far the courts have failed that test," said Peggy Hicks, an American lawyer who heads the human rights office of the principal agency implementing U.S.-brokered Bosnian peace accords.

Djedovic was denied access to legal counsel for months. The indictment against him was leaked

Oct. 6, names at least 12 people who were killed in the camps. The trial is scheduled to begin in December.

Bosnia's December 1995 peace pact was intended to end animosities throughout the country. But Sarajevo-sponsored persecution of Abdic followers in northwestern Bosnia, especially around the town of Velika Kladusa, persisted. Those who tried to return to their homes or take up political activity met violence.

In municipal elections last month, members of Abdic's party won most seats in Velika Kladusa but are afraid to try to occupy them, according to international monitors. The national Muslim party of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has threatened to kill any Abdic supporters who attempt to take office, the monitors said.

Djedovic considered his arrest part of the Sarajevo government's attempt to send a chill through dissident political circles. "I was arrested because I am a key leader of the (Abdic) party," he told the newspaper Dnevni Avez. "They want to scare and frighten people."

Regardless of his guilt or innocence, Djedovic's detention at the Bosnia-Herzegovina Parliament last May was illegal because he enjoyed immunity at the time. Authorities of the Muslim-Croat federation based their action on a notice from the international war crimes tribunal at The Hague that ruled, in response to the Bosnian government's petition, that there was sufficient evidence to detain and investigate Djedovic.

"I don't think we have the political circumstances that would allow a fair trial," said Senka Nozica, an attorney for Djedovic and vice president of Bosnia's chapter of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. "This is logical because the wounds are still too fresh. It is impossible to expect that just one or two years after the war, (the judiciary) can be completely professional. The Abdic followers are considered the absolute enemies of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Nozica has taken the Djedovic case at great personal risk because of the enormous unpopularity of the Abdic faction. Justice served for someone like Djedovic would introduce new, higher standards in the Bosnian legal system, Nozica said.

Hicks and other international officials say it is precisely the unusual focus on the Djedovic case, its complexity and political sensitivity, that should pressure authorities to follow proper procedures. Instead, international officials say, handling of the case is "a sham."

# Clinton's global warming plan gets chilly response

By James Gerstenzang=(c) 1997, Los Angeles Times

BONN, Germany- On the critical matter of global warming, the United States- birthplace of the environmental movement three decades ago- is suddenly more out of sync than ever with the rest of the world on a crucial ecological issue.

The U.S. position announced by President Clinton in Washington Wednesday has drawn reactions ranging from disappointment to disdain among the representatives of more than 150 nations who have gathered in Bonn to negotiate a treaty pledging concrete steps to control global warming.

Even more significant, the United States is increasingly finding itself playing the naysayer while a diverse collection of nations says it is ready to take tougher action across the board to fight pollution and protect the environment.

The other issues on which the United States has put the brakes on- including efforts to protect the ozone layer and plant and animal species and to control the export of toxic waste- have attracted none of the international attention devoted to global warming. But U.S. recalcitrance has made the country something of a pariah among international environmental diplomats.

Now, with Clinton's global warming program on the negotiating table, the degree to which other countries have passed the United States in demonstrating a willingness to tackle one of the most intractable- and potentially most costly- environmental dilemmas couldn't be more clear.

Clinton on Wednesday proposed that industrialized nations reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide to 1990 levels during the period between 2008 and 2012. He called for further, unspecified reductions in the following five-year period. Current emissions are 7.5 percent above 1990 levels.

The European Union has proposed a 15 percent cut from 1990 levels of emissions by 2010, while Japan has proposed a complicated formula that would force cuts of 2.5 percent on Japan and an average 5 percent on all the industrialized nations.

In the corridors of the Beethovenhalle here- where the conferees are meeting this week and next to prepare a treaty for completion in Kyoto, Japan, in December- delegates expressed

deep disappointment that Clinton had not moved the United States closer to the position put forward by some of its greatest economic partners and competitors in the industrial world.

The negotiators' mission is to find common ground among nations with increasingly similar economies but often fundamentally different societies- China, India, the United States and those in Europe- and countries with sharply divergent interests. The tiny Marshall Islands of the South Pacific, for example, are concerned about simple survival if global warming causes sea levels to rise over their shores. Australia, also an island though a massive one, is less concerned about being swamped and more focused on its economic future and its continued use of coal to fire factories and utility plants.

When coal and oil are burned, they give off gases that, like the glass of a greenhouse, trap the Earth's heat in the atmosphere.

Yet some key questions have no clear, undisputed answers. For example: What would be the economic impact of dramatic action to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and hydrofluorocarbons? And would a more deliberate approach do the trick?

The United States appears the odd man out in preferring the more cautious track. Only Japan is anywhere close to supporting Washington's position. Also complicating the mix is the position of some scientists- considered out of the mainstrea- who say that if global warming is taking place, it may be simply a natural phenomenon that nature will correct, rather than the result of the unchecked use of carbon-based fossil fuels that has accompanied economic development.

The United States has long agreed that global warming is a concern, but some bargaining partners here see a gap between Clinton's strong rhetoric on the issue- in a speech at the United Nations in June he said the world had to do more to combat global warming- and the specifics of the U.S. proposal.

"I would have expected a more substantive step forward," said a German delegate, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

On Thursday, participants in the U.N.-sponsored negotiations took diplomatically couched shots at Clinton's proposal.

"The offer is a very modest one," said Raoul Estrada-Oyuela of Argentina, the conference's chairman.

# Drug convict suspected of giving AIDS virus to at least 11

By Blaine Harden=(c) 1997, The Washington Post

MAYVILLE, N.Y.- Until Monday morning, residents of this village in the wine and dairy country had the luxury of worrying only about the predictable woes of life in rural upstate New York.

So they were stunned and disbelieving when Chautauqua County health authorities announced Monday that a 20-year-old sexual predator from outside the community had in the past two years infected at least 11 local young women with the virus that causes AIDS.

"Are you sure it is not Mayville, Wisconsin?" said Mayor Dave Crandall, when asked Monday morning whether he knew that someone had been spreading the AIDS virus in this village of 1,900 people.

It was here amid the cornfields and blazing fall foliage of the rural

from being identified. But Williams's identity was released Monday, along with a photograph, after prosecutors persuaded a judge in Mayville Monday that his threat to the community was more important than the protection of his privacy rights.

Chautauqua County District Attorney Jim Subjack said that his office is bringing statutory rape charges against Williams for allegedly having sex with a 13-year-old girl from nearby Jamestown. Subjack said the girl had consensual sex with Williams four months after Williams was told he was infected with the AIDS virus. The girl filed a complaint on Oct. 16.

The prosecutor said that authorities had begun investigating last this summer after after six local young people went to the health department for AIDS tests and all of them identified Williams as a sexual partner. All six of the young people, the oldest of whom is 28, tested positive for the AIDS virus.

The county health commissioner said his staff has tested 28 direct sexual partners of Williams, along with 53 other people who had contact with his sexual partners. It is still working on tests of 17 others. Eleven people have tested positive so far, Berke said.

An announcement that someone had been spreading the AIDS virus among students and an appeal for students who may have had contact with him to talk confidentially to health officials were made Monday at assemblies at the local middle and high school. In addition, a county-wide appeal was made Monday asking residents to call the county health department if they have had unprotected sex with an unfamiliar partner within the past year.

One middle school student, 14-year-old Adam Zabrowski, said his social studies teacher gathered all 7th and 8th graders in the gym.

He just said that there was a guy that had HIV that was in the Chautauqua district or county and he had HIV and there have been reports of kids who caught (it). He went to the New York jail."

"(The teacher said) there is no worry of it spreading. If you have had any sexual intercourses you should talk to an elder. The nurse said there is nothing to be scared of, it was more drugs for sex. Not that many kids that I know of have done that kind of thing really. Everyone was wondering who it was and joking around about it."

The health commissioner said in an interview here Monday evening that while Chautauqua County was a rural area, there have been indications here for some time of considerable sexual activity among young people. He said that in 1992, the county's rate of teen-

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to a pro-government newspaper before he or his attorneys knew its contents. Charges are vaguely general and the official investigation, human rights monitors say, was fatally flawed.

Sarajevo's mostly Muslim authorities have targeted Djedovic because of his role in a particularly odd and painful chapter of the war. He is not an enemy Serb or Croat, but a fellow Muslim- all the more a traitor, they say.

In the war, Djedovic sided with renegade Muslim businessman Fikret Abdic, who declared an "autonomous" region in northwestern Bosnia that fought against the Sarajevo-based government and sometimes collaborated with Serbs and Croats. To this day, Abdic and his followers are regarded by many Sarajevo Muslims as the most unforgivable of war criminals.

Djedovic, 35, was Abdic's deputy head of defense and interior with key positions of responsibility over security, and, prosecutors allege, over prison camps where more than 6,000 Muslim opponents were detained, tortured or beaten.

The 15-page indictment, issued on

age pregnancy ranked third in New York State.

Berke said that sex education courses in public schools had brought the teen-age pregnancy rate down to about the state average, but that "in spite of all that progress, now we have this. We have been getting complacent, too comfortable with our programs. We have got to street-proof our kids. Give them all the data."

Berke said that Williams "liked to lurk around the edges of schools or parks, maybe where kids would be playing basketball, and pick out young ladies who may, for one reason or another, be in a risk-taking mode."

The New York State Health Department is sending a team of epidemiologists, HIV counselors, public health physicians and health educators to help Chautauqua County handle the case, officials said. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control sent two staff members to

assist.

Williams was arrested on Sept. 22 in the Bronx and charged with selling \$20 worth of crack cocaine to an undercover detective, according to Steven Reed, a spokesman for the Bronx district attorney's office. He said Williams is being held in the New York City correctional facility on Rikers Island and that he pleaded guilty last week to attempted criminal sale of a controlled substance.

Subjack said that if the young people cooperate, he intends to prosecute Williams for first-degree assault in the cases of those who contracted the AIDS virus. He said he will charge Williams with reckless endangerment in the cases of those who had sex but did not become infected with the virus. The prison term for first-degree assault is 25 years and it is seven years for reckless endangerment.